

AK LEGISLATURE FINANCE COMMITTEES FILES 2007-2008 3260

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The control phase starts after weed control treatments begin and the initial population begins to decline. Small pioneer populations are controlled or eradicated. As the number of plants declines, weed control treatments need to become more directed. Spot sprays of herbicides and hand removal may become effective treatments. In the eradication phase, only isolated plants, zero plants or plant parts are found. This phase requires the use of highly directed treatments when these isolated plants are detected, making spot sprays of herbicides and hand removal of individual plants and underground plant parts the most commonly used techniques.

The eradication phase is also characterized by long term survey and monitoring of previous infested sites to ensure discovery of any new plants that emerge. The level of total effort may not decrease in the eradication phase, but the bulk of the work shifts from treatment of existing populations to survey and search for surviving plants or plant parts (seeds, tubers).

To be successful, weed eradication requires adequate government authority and support of the local community. In general, government authority is required to establish quarantine zones and support

eradication programs. Quarantine zones are needed to prevent movement of a new weed into non-infested areas, but also to ensure that new introductions are not being made into an area with an active eradication program. Government support of eradication programs is generally necessary for two reasons; first, the complete removal of all plants or plant parts from even a small area often requires considerable costs, which individual landowners are usually not willing or able to make; and second, all infested properties in given area must cooperate with the eradication effort if it is going to succeed. It makes no sense to eradicate a given weed from one property only to allow it to grow and spread unimpeded across the fence.

The California Legislature has given the CDFA authority and responsibility to eradicate noxious weeds from California. The Legislature has specifically named two weeds in the Food and Agriculture Code to be eradicated, hydrilla and camelthorn (Food and Agriculture Code Sections 7303 and 6048, respectively) The Legislature has given the CDFA authority to control or eradicate other weeds (Food and Agriculture Code Sections 403, 5004, 5021-5027) and those weeds are named by regulation (California Code of Regulations Title 3 Section 4500.) In addition, the CDFA

acts on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture in the control and eradication of federally listed noxious weeds within the state.

To carry out the responsibility to control and eradicate noxious weeds, the CDFA classifies weeds according to the actions it intends to take (CDFA 2006). The CDFA considers all listed noxious weeds to be a threat to the ecology and/or economy of the state. The CDFA rates weeds in four classes: A, B, C, or Q. For A-rated weeds, the CDFA considers them, based on survey information available, limited in extent of infestation - roughly at the "pioneer" or early "colonization" stages of invasion. A-rated weeds are subject to statewide eradication and cannot be sold by plant nurseries or in other channels of trade. B-rated weeds are more widespread in distribution at the "colonization" or early "establishment" stages of invasion. B-rated weeds are subject to local eradication, at the discretion of the county Agricultural Commissioner, and cannot be sold by plant nurseries. C-rated weeds are generally widespread and subject to local control activities. The Q rating is a temporary rating and the CDFA treats these weeds as A-rated weeds until a full risk analysis can be completed. This rating system may be refined in the near future, but the essential goal of rating weeds according to the size of the infestation and potential risk/impacts to agriculture and the environment will remain.

The CDFA has found that local community support is vital to the success of an eradication program. Community groups include, but are not limited to, Native American tribes, environmental groups, fishing, hunting, boating and other outdoor recreational enthusiasts, and local city and county governments. The CDFA conducts extensive public education and outreach to explain its actions and the reasons for those actions, including the consequences of inaction. The CDFA has found that local communities can be very supportive of eradication programs once they understand the rationale behind them.



Herbicide spraying aims to control and reduce a weed at a specific site

In addition to authority and local community support, a successful eradication effort needs an on-the-ground program. Based on the CDFA experience, I can define four components to such a program: early detection, rapid response, environmental compliance and monitoring, and long-term commitment. Early detection means finding a new weed as early in the "pioneer" stage of invasion as possible, which requires constant survey of high-risk areas (highways, airports, marinas, campgrounds) by as many eyes as possible, including help from the public to see and report a new weed. A botany laboratory must be maintained by CDFA to correctly identify any suspect new weed. Rapid response means that the CDFA and landowners bring all appropriate resources to bear against the new introduction in a timely manner, which may necessitate that plans, required permits, and funding sources be identified ahead of time. Appropriate control strategies must be implemented, usually including, but not limited to, herbicides and mechanical control. Environmental compliance means

that the treatment program must be in compliance with all environmental laws, including the California Environmental Quality Act, and the federal Endangered Species Act. The CDFA has a policy of conducting an environmental monitoring program for all of its eradication programs, including monitoring foliage, soil, air, and water, depending upon the nature of the treatment program. Long-term commitment means that funds and manpower must be dedicated to follow up survey and treatment for several years after the last plants are detected to ensure that hidden seeds or tubers don't germinate, become established, and start a new introduction.

In conclusion, I believe that weed eradication is an achievable goal. The CDFA has been conducting weed eradication projects for decades, with an impressive track record. The key is to detect new weed introductions as early as possible, especially in the "pioneer" phase, respond rapidly with appropriate weed control techniques, maintain environmental compliance, and follow up with surveys and treatments for the long-term. ❖

REFERENCES

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Rejmanek, M and M.J. Pitcairn 2002. When is eradication of exotic pest plants a realistic goal?, pages 249-253. In Veitch, C.R. and Clout, M.N. (eds.) Turning the Tide: the eradication of invasive species. IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. www.issg.org/Eradicat.html

Aquarium and Pond Plants of the World: An interactive identification and information guide

An upgrade from slower and often confusing paper keys, the CD-ROM *Aquarium and Pond Plants of the World* (2004) offers a computer-based guide to identify over 125 common aquatic plants by floral and vegetative characteristics. CDFA's Shaun L. Winterton, an insect biosystematist, created the program under the joint sponsorship between the USDA and APHIS.

The identification key runs on the Lucid3 player, easily downloaded during CD installation. The key is available online at www.lucidcentral.org. All plant profiles include color photographs and/or illustrations of a larger size and number than traditional paper keys can accommodate. While the online key offers immediate access, there is an advantage to ordering the CD. For one thing, internet connection is not required after downloading Lucid player, and the CD also runs an easy step-by-step tutorial on how to best use the key for first time users, which is lacking online. Furthermore, the CD contains information such as the Federal Noxious Weeds List, a glossary, a weed profile browsing section, and a list of some water-tolerant terrestrial plants commonly sold for aquariums.

Initially designed as a diagnostic tool for regulatory officials needing to quickly and accurately identify and screen aquarium plant imports, *Aquarium and Pond Plants of the World* is a useful tool for anyone interested in aquatic plants - including researchers, botanists, nursery managers and wholesalers.

Winterton and Lucid plan to expand and upgrade the second edition of the key with over 140 genera, which will be available online later this year at www.lucidcentral.org.

To request a CD copy of this product, fax Terrence Walters, Lucid Coordinator at (970) 482-0924, or write him at: USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST, 2301 Research Blvd., Suite 108, Fort Collins, CO 80526 ❖

Interested in more plant identification CD-ROMs?
See also "Grass and Grass-Like Weeds of California" and "Broadleaf Weeds of California" at www.cal-ipc.org/resources/booksandcds/index.php.



Economic Effects on Invasive Weeds on Land Values (from an Agricultural Banker's Standpoint)

Charles Weiser

From: Exotic Pests of Eastern Forests, Conference Proceedings - April 8-10, 1997. Nashville, TN. Edited by: Kerry O. Britton, USDA Forest Service & TN Exotic Pest Plant Council

The year was 1954, four young 4-H members were traveling to a livestock judging workout. Ben Barrett, the county agent, stopped the car and escorted the young men to a weed patch located on the adjacent railroad right-of-way. "Take a good look-this is leafy spurge. If you ever see it in your area, let me know. It is almost impossible to control."

My next encounter with leafy spurge came in the spring of 1963. As Assistant Ward County Extension Agent, I became aware of leafy spurge infestation in Ward County. There were an estimated 2,000 acres in a seven-township area centering on the "Brooks Ranch" area. It was found in patches from 200 square feet to 10 acres in size. These patches were in road ditches, coulee bottoms, and fence lines.

The county agent and myself used square rod demonstration plots and personal contacts to try and convince landowners to organize a control program. We had very little success.

The excuses were many:

1. It's too expensive; the state should pay the bill;
2. It came in along the railroad; they should clean it up;
3. What's the problem-it's been here since the mid 30's and hasn't spread very fast.

A few individuals started control programs on their land, and those areas are relatively clean today.

By 1972 (10 years later), the acreage infested in Ward County had doubled to around 4,000 acres. There was now some spurge in all 57 townships in the county. The concern level of the landowners had increased, and the county began a limited control program along county roads, but control on private land was limited due to the high cost per acre of chemical control.

By 1982 (10 years later), the acreage doubled again to around 8,000 acres. The county commissioners were considering scrapping the control on roadsides; they had not seen very much done on the private land, and wondered why they were spending money on road ditches if the adjacent landowners didn't do anything. At the same time, the state legislators changed the weed laws, allowing counties to levy 3 mills of property tax to be used for weed control. In addition, the Legislature appropriated state funds which were divided among the counties which levied the 3 mills. The combination of county and state funds could be used to cost share spurge control on private lands.

This cost share approach on private lands was instituted in 1983. In my county and state, funds cover 70% of the cost. The landowner pays approximately 30%.

The acreage of leafy spurge continued to increase to a high of around 12,000 acres in 1990.

After watching control results from 1983 to 1990, more and more farm operators took part. Estimated acreage infested in 1994 showed a drop to around 10,000 acres of which 8,000 had control measures applied.

Over the time frame of 1962 to 1992, the area of leafy spurge in North Dakota doubled every 10 years from 200,000 acres in 1962 to an estimated high of 1,000,000 acres in 1992.

In 1994, Agricultural Economists at North Dakota completed studies of the annual economic impacts of leafy spurge on grazing lands and wildlands in the four state area (North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming).

The methods and detail of the studies are available from North Dakota State University (NDSU). In the interest of brevity, please allow me to summarize their findings for North Dakota.

Annual Grazing Land Impact in North Dakota

Grazing Acres	1,426,000
Infested Acres	625,900
% Infested	5.48%
Lost AUM's of Grazing	459,000
Value lost AUM's	6,876,000
Lost expenses & returns	17,317,000
Direct economic impacts	24,193,000
Secondary (economic impacts)	53,989,000
Combined economic impact	78,182,000

Annual Wildland Impacts in North Dakota

Wildland acres	4,899,000
Infested acres	350,300
% Infested	7.15%
Reduction soil water conservation	514,100
Reduction wildlife recreation	2,111,600
Direct economic impact	2,625,700
Secondary economic impact	5,291,000
Total economic impact	9,790,000

Annual impact on grazing	\$78,182,000
Annual impact on wildlands	\$9,790,000
Total:	\$87,972,000

Take this annual loss over 10 years and the resulting combined loss is staggering!

Now, let's look at the effects of this weed on land values.

The basic value of any income producing investment is based on the projected income flow the investment will produce. This holds true for stocks, bonds, land, apartment buildings, etc.

If the income stream shrinks, so does the value (price) of the investment. Likewise, if income streams increase, so does the value of the investment.

Alien plants which invade native grazing lands, all affect carrying capacity negatively. They crowd out productive and usable forage plants lowering carrying capacity. As carrying capacity shrinks, so does the income stream. As income streams shrink, so does value of the asset.

Remember the Brooks Ranch? Leafy spurge acreage increased to the point where over 50% of the acres were infested. The owners decided to sell. Two brothers who were neighbors purchased the ranch in 1975, at full market value. Farm Credit Services financed the purchase. Within three years, they had deeded back most of the pasture land to Farm Credit Services and were financially distressed.

It took Farm Credit Services until early 1991 to sell the property. I visited with Jeff Haugen, the appraiser for FCS regarding prices and value. He said his knowledge of sales indicated that this type of pasture should have sold for \$100 to \$125 per acre. Because of the lowered carrying capacity due to leafy spurge, the price dropped to \$40/acre. Jeff, also related that he was surprised it was that high. By the time it was sold, much of the pasture was 100% covered by spurge.

This drop in value of 60% is a real loss in value.

Another documented case came from Klamath County, Oregon. In the year 1988, a 1,360 acre ranch was taken over by the county to cover unpaid taxes caused by unproductivity because of leafy spurge. Estimated value for similar clean land was \$125 to \$150/acre. (\$170,000 to \$204,000).

The county put the ranch up for sale with minimum bids set at \$17,000 for taxes due. The first try at selling failed with bids below that level. Eventually, it was sold to a party who lives in California for \$27,500, with the stipulation he had to control the spurge. In 1995, I called Francis Roberts, the county weed supervisor in Klamath County, to confirm the information. He indicated he had confirmed the prices with county officials and had called the current owner. The owner had spent close to \$60,000 through 1994 (6 years) on control measures. The weed supervisor indicated he has a serious problem and has made little headway in control. This drop in value from \$170,000 to \$27,500 shows a loss of approximately 83% in value on this ranch.

As an agricultural lender, I am interested in the longterm values of my collateral. Most agricultural loans run for terms of over 10 years up to 20 to 30 years. If my collateral value declines due to invasive alien weeds, my loan may be in jeopardy. Likewise, reduced income due to alien invasive weeds lowers income from the land. This lower income will affect the borrower's ability to repay the loan.

Because of these effects on value and income, I am not interested in real estate loans where my collateral has invasive alien weeds.

All invasive weeds cause loss of native plants and changes in wildlife habitat. Losses of desirable habitat translates to losses of wildlife numbers. A case in point is the loss of elk habitat in Montana due to infestation of spotted knap weed. Another is wetland degradation due to purple loosestrife.

In some areas, noxious invasive weeds are an out-and-out eyesore. They cheat us of the surroundings we once found a pleasure to behold.

An unqualified impact of aliens and invasive weeds on less intensively managed wildlands is their potential to act as a nursery or seed bank from which to spread.

The bottom line is a devastating loss in incomes, land values, wildlife habitat, and the aesthetic value of wild places.

Our natural resource heritage depends on everyone's involvement.

You, as land managers, cannot stand by and let alien weeds continue to expand their range because it is "too" expensive to control them.

The highest cost you will ever pay is the lost income and drop in value as the alien plants take over.

The lowest cost is for early and continued control at first appearance. That first \$1 spent on small patches will save income, land values, and the extremely high costs of control later!

There is an old Indian proverb. "We don't inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

Literature Cited

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The University of Georgia - Warnell School of Forestry
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences - Dept. of Entomology
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Questions and/or comments to the Bugwood Network



Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management

House Resources Subcommittee,

The Board of Directors for the Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management (CNIPM) would like to provide members of the House Resources Subcommittee with information about invasive plant threats to natural resources and invasive plant management efforts in Alaska and other states.

Noxious weeds and invasive plants have proven worldwide to be a threat to natural resources because they compete with crops and native plants, degrade fish and wildlife habitat, and can decrease property values. Worldwide, estimated annual costs of invasive species are \$1.4 trillion. Idaho spends \$300 million a year on invasive species control, and Montana spends \$14 million a year on just one weed, spotted knapweed. In Alaska, spotted knapweed has been found at more than 10 sites. Many other invasive plants have been found in Alaska in similarly small populations that will expand beyond control without prompt management. Managing invasive plants when they are in small, incipient populations is recognized by experts as the most cost effective way to prevent the problem from getting out of control. Alaska has a unique opportunity *in prevention*; to avoid natural resource losses, direct and indirect economic impacts and extensive herbicide use that others are experiencing.

Over the last eight years professionals and the public have discovered well-established and expanding populations of highly invasive plants in Alaska. These highly invasive plants are a threat to agricultural production, forestry, fisheries, tourism, subsistence resources, waterfowl, large and small game, and non-timber forest products such as wild berries. All of these resources are keystones to Alaska's natural-resource based industries and subsistence uses. Professionals in Alaska and outside can demonstrate that Alaska's invasive plant problem is growing. However, swift coordinated management will prevent major losses to resources and expenditures of state funds.

Other states such as Oregon, Washington and Idaho have established coordinated efforts for invasive plant management through the establishment of noxious weed and invasive plant boards. Successful invasive plant management boards include an appropriate range of stakeholders such as land managers from state agencies, representatives of industries affected by the issue and experts in the field of invasive plant management.

Noxious weed and invasive plant management boards develop and regularly review statewide strategic plans for invasive plant prevention and management. Plans provide coordination and direction to state agencies and local weed management efforts. Strategic plans are also pre-requisites to acquisition of federal funds available

under the Federal Noxious Weed Act. Strategic plans demonstrate state commitment and cooperation with local efforts.

State weed boards often establish funds to provide financial assistance for local weed management efforts. Federal funding sources expect state matching dollars towards projects. Federal funds are often ephemeral, and are selected through a competitive process at the national level. States with established invasive plant management funds have support that will allow for management to continue in the absence of available federal dollars or changes in federal priorities.

Questions have been raised whether the board to be created by HB 330 should cover all types of invasive species, including such organisms as marine zebra mussels and agricultural diseases such as potato blight. While this idea was considered it has shortcomings with regards to invasive plant management.

Several states with successful invasive species management efforts have a weed board dedicated to managing only invasive plants to simplify listing species for management, provide adequate number of appropriate experts and stakeholders, and facilitate coordinated management. There are numerous plant species of concern for Alaska, requiring input from plant experts and stakeholders. Coordination needs are unique with invasive plants due to their ability to quickly spread across multiple land ownership boundaries. Invasive animals and/or diseases also require significant coordination efforts. However, potato blight and zebra mussel, for example, require management efforts from a primary agency, in this case the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Agriculture and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), respectively. On the other hand, a single species of invasive plant may be found growing within the management purview of Department of Transportation, ADF&G, DNR, and private property holders.

Other states have advised Alaska that, in order for a state weed board to be successful, Alaska needs two things: knowledge of invasive plants that occur in or threaten the state, and established local management efforts. We have these things. A scientific ranking of over 100 invasive plant species located in the state is complete and available online alongside results of survey efforts for these invasive plant species. Local efforts to manage invasive plants have begun through all the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and five established Cooperative Weed Management Areas, regional groups that coordinate work across jurisdictional boundaries.

The background work has been done to pave the way for a successful state weed board in Alaska. The need is great and the opportunity to *prevent* major invasive plant problems in Alaska will not last forever. Now is the time to take action.

Thank you for your time on this important issue,

CNIPM board
Jamie Nielsen (Chair)
Gino Graziano (Vice-Chair)

From: AKCANWIN@aol.com [mailto:AKCANWIN@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2008 9:15 PM
To: Rep. Carl Gatto
Subject: Invasive Weeds House Bill 330

Dear Representative Gatto

We are Troy and Lori Zaumseil. We have been very active around Alaska on the issue of invasive weeds and we are writing to ask for your support with **House Bill 330**. This bill addresses the threat to Alaska from noxious, invasive weeds that are becoming more and more established in Alaska. Invasive weeds have begun to compromise fish passage in Alaskan waterways, encroach onto agricultural acreage and overtake residential and public land. Each of these has the potential to affect Alaska through lowered property values, reduced wildlife forage and lower salmon harvests. We know that many legislators are talking about "holding the line on spending" and "being conservative with Alaska's finances" and that is always the right thing to do. But as Troy and I are speaking in front of community councils and other groups we are explaining that enacting this legislation IS the fiscally responsible thing to do. There is ample proof and forewarning that Alaska WILL incur losses and expense if we don't address invasive, noxious weeds and address it NOW. We must put the framework in place to prevent and control this threat and minimize these kinds of losses and resulting unavoidable expense--a formal weed program will do that, as well as make federal funds available to Alaska. Alaska is in a position to catch this problem in its early stages, we can not afford to squander that advantage. Representative Craig Johnson has been working with the Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) to develop **House Bill 330**. Troy and I have been speaking to community councils and other groups to make them understand why spending a dollar of their tax money now will save them thousands later. We have also been asked to speak at the Alaska Forum on the Environment and at the Alaska Botanical Gardens Spring Conference--the threat from invasive weeds is being recognized by citizens all over the state. Perhaps most important to us is our invitation to speak in Washington D.C. at the National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week. We will be traveling to D.C. in a couple weeks to address the opening session and meet with Alaska's federal representatives on this issue. We want to carry the message that Alaska is fighting the good fight and responding to this threat to her ecology, economy and environment. Please add your voice and support to this important legislation and encourage other legislators to do the same. The up front expense is minimal compared to what we stand to preserve in natural resources and save in financial losses later.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Troy and Lori Zaumseil

January 29, 2008

Trish Wurtz
P.O. Box 82864
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Dear Ms Wurtz

Thank you for your comments regarding invasive plants in Alaska and HB330. It is critical that the public be able to share their opinions and comments to their representative and I truly appreciate your comments.

Invasive plants are a growing concern for Alaska, especially with global warming affecting migration. The proposed bill provides a means to limit the possible damage. The bill is scheduled to be heard in the House Resources Committee on February 11th at 1:00 p.m. You can send a letter of support or call in to testify during the hearing. I have also forwarded your information to the Committee to be included as part of the public testimony and debate.

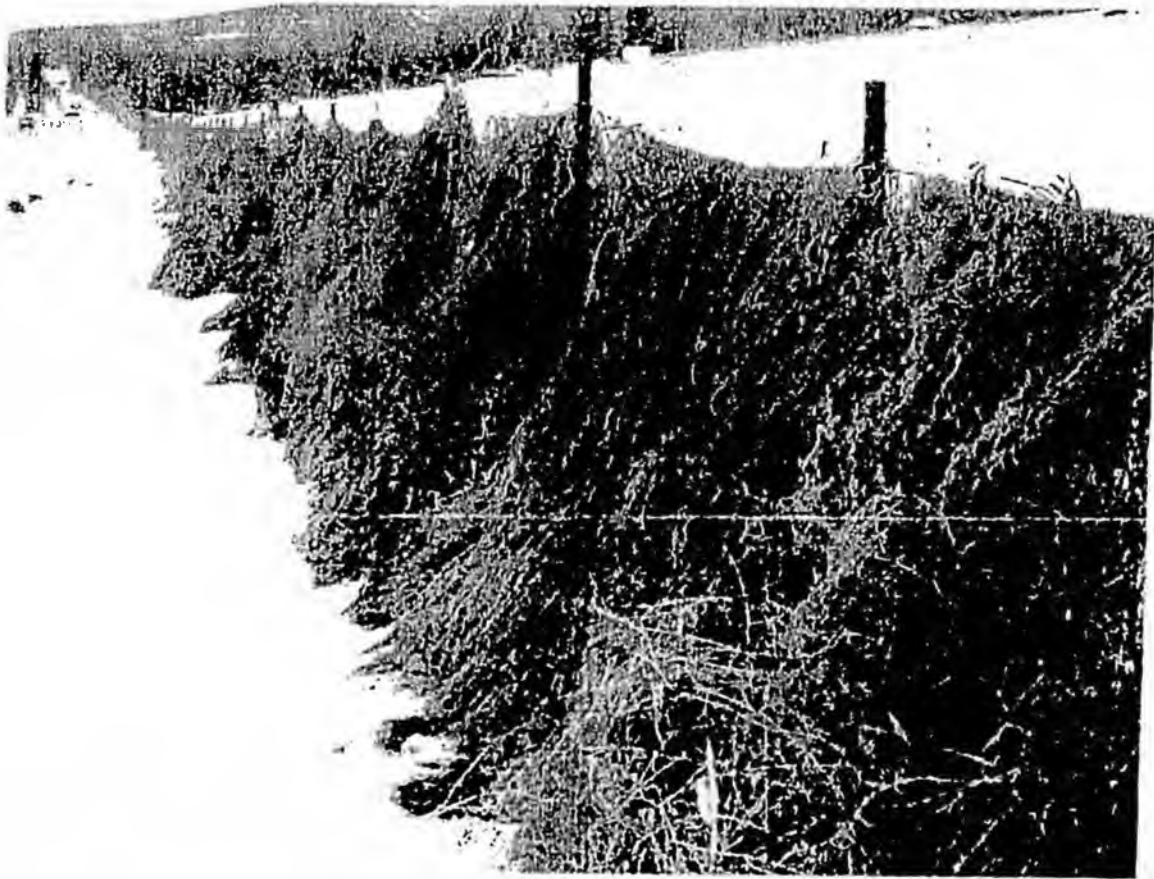
As a member of the House Resources Committee, I will deliberate the bill and I will take your concerns under consideration in the committee and later on the House Floor.

I always enjoy listening to Fairbanksans and will work hard for our city. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in the future.

Working hard for Fairbanks families,

Representative Scott Kawasaki
District 9 Fairbanks

rus/cc JOHNSON



Invasive bird vetch covering a fence at the UAF experimental farm

Dear Rep. Kawasaki,

1/22/08

Invasive plants are not yet a big problem in Alaska, but there's cause for concern. About a hundred species that are known to be aggressive invaders elsewhere have been found in Alaska, and they are beginning to spread like crazy.

Alaska still has lots of pristine land left. We need the weed board that Representative Johnson has proposed in house bill 330. The weed board needs some start-up funds, too.

Alaska needs to act before invasive plants become a big problem here. We need to act now, before the big problems occur. Please support bill 330.

Sincerely,

Trish Wurtz
Box 82864
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Nice to see you
at Kenton's memorial
work party.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Alaska Region

State & Private Forestry
3301 'C' Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503-3956

File Code: 3400

Date: September 11, 2007

The Honorable Craig Johnson
Representative, House District 28
State House
716 W 4th Avenue, Suite 640
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Representative Johnson:

Thank you for your interest and support of the Forest Service Invasive Plant Program in Alaska. Your e-mail inquiry regarding our Fiscal Year 2008 budget for this program was forwarded to me by Jeanne Ostnes of your staff. As you know we do not yet have an appropriation, but have no reason to assume that funding will be different from previous years. In Fiscal Year 2007, the Alaska Region of the Forest Service was allocated \$243,000 for invasive plants management on non-federal lands. All of those funds were distributed to cooperators and partners, such as University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, and the Municipality of Anchorage. With these funds, and others leveraged from cooperators, 110 acres of treatment were planned for accomplishment.

I plan to attend the September 20 meeting to discuss invasives in Alaska and look forward to a dialogue with representatives from your office and others. Our long standing partner and grant recipient in the invasive plant program, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service, will also be represented by Jamie Nielsen. Additionally at that time, I expect to be able to announce the selection of our new Invasive Plant Program Coordinator for Alaska.

If you need additional information, please contact me at (907) 743-9451.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN E. PATTERSON
Acting Director, State & Private Forestry

cc: Jeanne Ostnes



Letter to State Legislators

We are Troy and Lori Zaurseil. We live in Anchorage, we are Alaskans and we believe there is a crisis looming that threatens every aspect of what makes Alaska unique in all the world. Every day noxious, invasive plants are encroaching more and more into the eco-system of Alaska--choking, diminishing and forever changing the natural make up of our land--the same is happening in nearly every other state in the union, costing each of them millions and millions of dollars every year. The good news is that because of Alaska's remote setting, we have the best advantage over all those states to prevent invasive plant species infestation. What is completely unbelievable to us, is that Alaska has almost no safeguards in place to do this! We are asking you as someone who has sworn to protect the interests of Alaska and her citizens to read on and become part of the solution.

We are far from the most knowledgeable persons on the subject of invasive species and the policies that deal with them, but we have become personally impassioned and involved after finding 3 plants during the course of our spring gardening shopping that were infested with invasive species. One of them contained a Canada Thistle, which is listed in Alaska statute as a prohibited noxious weed. We sought resolution through Home Depot directly, expecting that they would act swiftly and make corrections to avoid sanctions from the Division of Agriculture. However, Home Depot refused to take action regarding the stock in their stores even after we notified them of our findings, so we felt we had no choice but to contact the Department of Agriculture and the USDA State Plant Health Coordinator.

What we learned is that while there is a statute that has a list of prohibited noxious weeds--that list is over 20 years old and in desperate need of updating. The problem is that what should be a simple act of adding a newly discovered problem plant to the list takes a year or more to happen--more than enough time for an aggressive invader to be permanently established and on its way to costing the state of Alaska millions in futile attempts to control and eradicate. Worse than that, as we have come to discover, is even though there is a statute, there is now allowance for enforcement, measuring compliance, levying penalties for violations or follow up. So although we made a report to these state agencies, they are limited by budget, lack of manpower and a statute with no real backbone. Essentially, in this case where a known entry point for a prohibited noxious weed is identified, there exists no means of addressing those responsible. The response from Home Depot has been almost non-existent and now we see why. This must change!!

There are a lot of dedicated experts putting forth extraordinary efforts to address invasive noxious plants in Alaska. They are working on how to control and eradicate these plants, they are spending time and energy educating the public about why it's important to be vigilant, they are working on studying the effects invasive plants have on every aspect of the environment, wildlife, livestock, property values, tourism and natural habitats. They are all fighting a losing battle if Alaska doesn't step up her defenses on the front end of this problem--PREVENTION. There are many states who have had to accept that millions of acres are just lost to them--over run by Star Thistle or Leafy Spurge and other invasive plants. These states lose hundreds of millions of dollars every year fighting to contain further spread, in reduced agriculture production, property values lowered, etc. We have found many reports that detail this and can provide many more statistics. Experts in the field all agree that prevention, by far, is the least expensive and most effective means of addressing noxious weeds.

To stop invasive species from ever getting in to Alaska, we need workable laws that allow the experts on the subjects to add and subtract known threats in real time. The current statutes are antiquated--drawn up to address agriculture and farming issues in the state half a century ago--they need to be updated to reflect the current age of retail box stores, mail order nurseries and property owners with access to them. Those new statutes must address specific issues and penalties for non-compliance. There should be an enforcement office who can field reports regarding invasive species and have the authority to act on them, do site inspections at retail outlets with the authority to issue warnings and fines if the situation merits and lastly work

with property owners to control invasive species on their land and stay compliant. Our experience with Home Depot is proof positive that big business will not police themselves out of concern for OUR natural resources. We have to find a way to make them care and enforceable regulations are the start!!

If prevention costs \$1, but fighting the problem after the fact costs \$1000, and the dollar isn't spent, then there is a failure to protect that financial interest. Please don't let the citizens of Alaska down. As someone sworn to protect the interests of the citizens you serve, we are bringing the battle to you, please pick up arms and join us in addressing this problem while it is the most manageable it will ever be. Each day another plant goes to seed, another noxious weed finds its way into Alaska gardens, into the moose and caribou forage, into the pastures, residential properties and on to hiking trails. The problem will never be easier to solve than it is today.

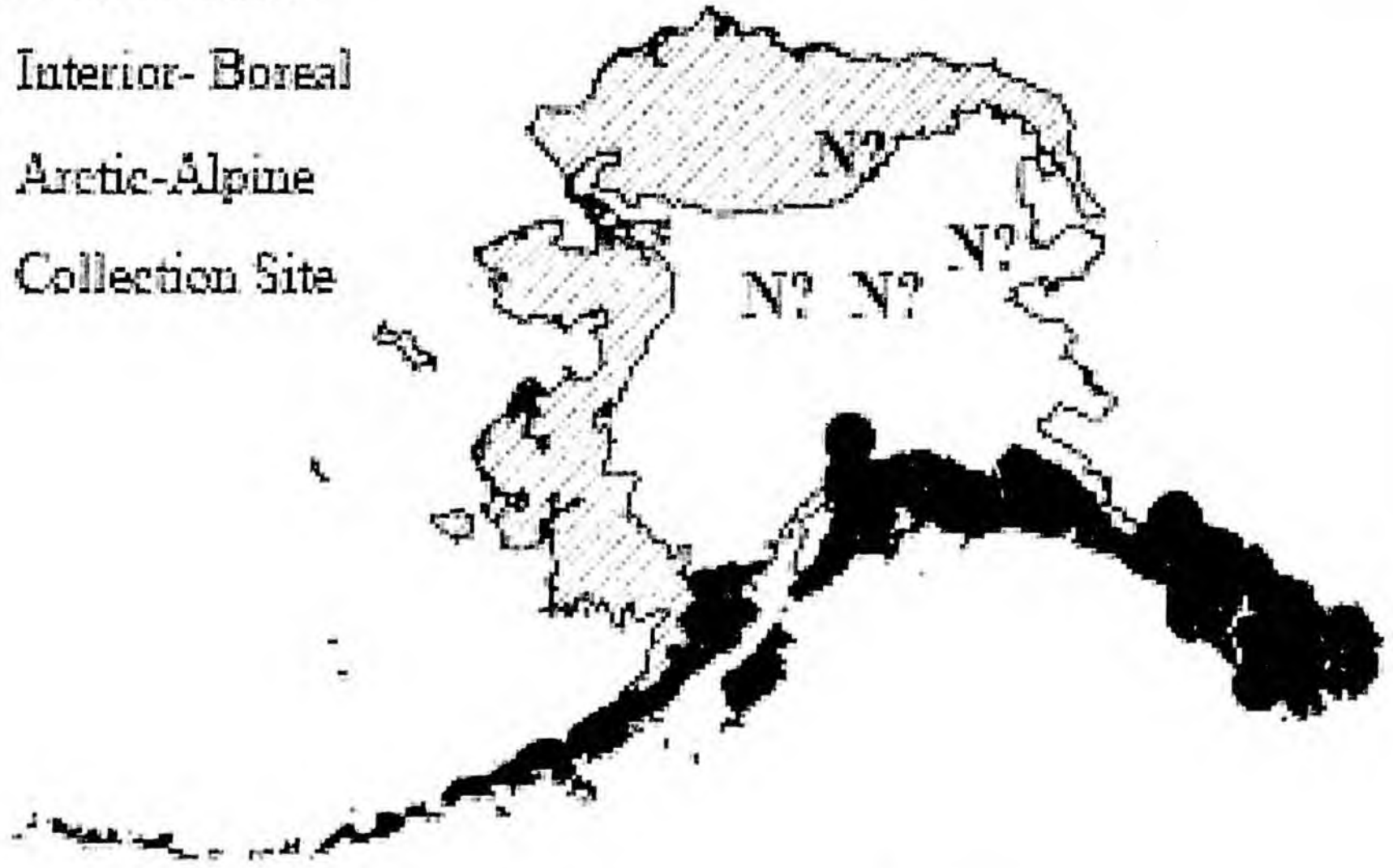
We are working to make all Alaskans aware of the changes that need to take place. We have been contacted by the Anchorage Daily News and Mother Earth News has expressed an interest in having me write about our quest. We find people every day who assumed that there was enforcement and safeguards in place to protect Alaska from invasive plants and we are determined to find those people in larger number and bring them all into this grassroots movement to affect change.

Thank you for your time. We ask that you make room for this matter on your calendar and we look forward to working with you.

Troy and Lori Zaumseil
9015 Dewberry St
Anchorage, AK 99502
907-245-2373

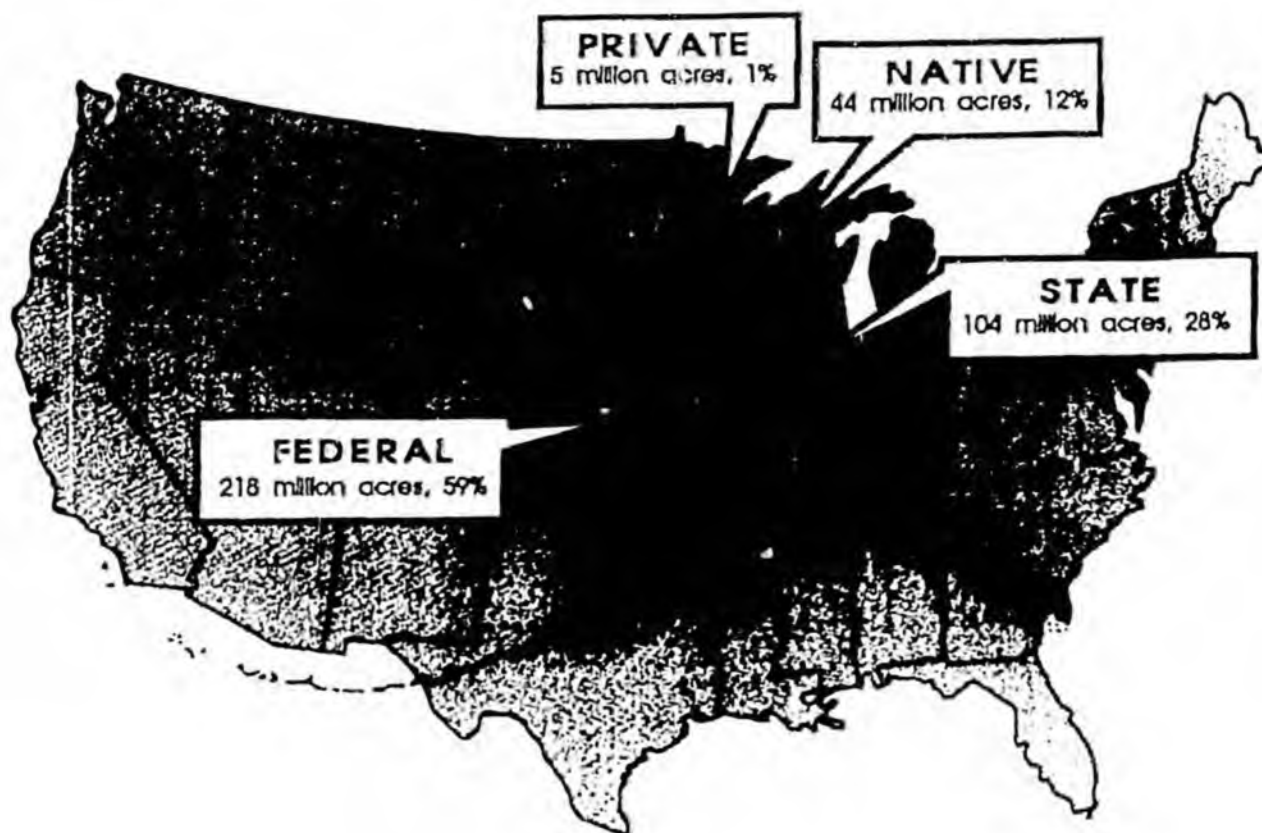
HB 330

- South Coastal
- Interior- Boreal
- ▨ Arctic-Alpine
- Collection Site



Distribution of reed canarygrass in Alaska.

WHO OWNS ALASKA?



Invasive weeds bill moves to Senate

<http://comraunity.adn.com/adn/node/119573> Posted by talkdirt Posted: March 17, 2008 10:39 pm

Cheryl writes: Weed warriors, there's good news from Juneau.

Lori and Troy Zaumseil report that HB 330 had its second and third reading on St. Patrick's Day on the floor of the House -- fitting, since it's such a good green bill -- and was put up for full vote. It passed unanimously.

This is the bill that would create a statewide weed coordinator as well as set up a program to organize efforts to fight invasive, noxious weeds in our state.

This would be the first step toward making Alaska eligible for federal funding and creating long-term strategies and defenses against the threat.

These aren't innocuous garden-variety weeds we're talking about but weeds like the river-clogging purple loosestrife that states Outside have spent tens of millions of tax dollars trying (mostly unsuccessfully) to eradicate. Or orange hawkweed, which crowds out and kills every forage plant around it. They and others like them threaten wildlife and salmon and have started showing up in Alaska.

But here, we still have a small window of time to stop them before they establish themselves.

Rep. Craig Johnson, R-Anchorage, spoke briefly on the bill's merits and Rep. Max Gruenberg, D-Anchorage, also spoke on its behalf.

Rep. Gruenberg noted that he'd received a copy of the noxious weed pocket guide available for free at Cooperative Extension Service offices and passed it on to a Master Gardener friend. She assured him that these invaders are a serious problem and fighting them is worthy of his support, and he endorsed the bill prior to the vote.

The measure goes now to the Senate Resources and Finance Committees. If it's passed there, it will go to the full Senate for a vote, and if successful, on to Gov. Palin.

All this has to happen before the end of the session, so as Lori says, it's a race against time.

Daily News copy editor Cheryl Chapman is a gardener and friend to all who've watched 10 flats of pansies (on sale!) keel and die on the back porch because their bed wasn't ready. Contact her at cchapman@adn.com.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

February 4, 2008

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary (HB 330) (Work Order No. 25-LS1062AE)
TO: Representative Craig Johnson
Attn: Jeanne Ostnes
FROM: Alpheus Bullard *ASB*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Adds a new article to AS 41.10 (Soil and water conservation) entitled: "Article 2. Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants."

41.10.200. States that it is the purpose of the article to limit economic loss and adverse effects to the state resulting from noxious weeds and invasive plants.

41.10.210. Establishes a Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Board.

41.10.220. Provides for board membership.

41.10.230. Establishes that board members are not entitled to compensation other than per diem and travel expenses.

41.10.240. Provides for board meetings.

41.10.250. Provides that the board will choose a presiding officer from its members.

41.10.260. Allows the board to employ staff and contract for services relating to matters within its authority.

41.10.270. Establishes the powers and duties of the board.

Representative Craig Johnson
February 4, 2008
Page 2

41.10.280. Provides that the board may establish advisory groups.

41.10.290. Provides that state efforts shall be in cooperation with federal noxious weed and invasive plant laws and initiatives.

41.10.300. Establishes that state departments, agencies, and institutions shall cooperate with the board.

41.10.310. Provides that the board may engage in joint operations related to noxious weeds and invasive plants with other persons, political subdivisions of the state, Native villages or regional corporations, the federal government, or Canada.

41.10.320. Creates a noxious weed and invasive plant management fund as an account within the general fund.

41.10.330. Directs the commissioner of natural resources, the commissioner of fish and game, the commissioner of environmental conservation, and the commissioner of transportation and public facilities to adopt regulations to implement the article.

41.10.399. Defines terms.

Section 2. Provides for the initial terms of board members.

Section 3. Establishes a deadline for the board's first meeting.

Section 4. Instructs the Revisor to amend AS 41.10 to conform with the Act's creation of a new article.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

TLAB:med
08-079.med

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Resources Committee

Carl Gatto, Co-Chair

State Capitol Building, Room 108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-3743
Fax (907) 465-2381
Rep_Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us



Craig Johnson, Co-Chair

State Capitol Building, Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4993
Fax (907) 465-3872
Rep_Craig_Johnson@legis.state.ak.us

Sponsor Statement

An Act relating to Noxious Weed, Invasive Plant and Agricultural Pest Management and Education CS for HB 330

In recent years, well established and expanding populations of highly invasive plants have been documented in Alaska. These species pose a serious threat to Alaska's agriculture, tourism, wildlife, fisheries, land values, and subsistence resources. Alaska is in a unique position to avoid the scope of problems now impacting all 48 contiguous states and Hawaii.

Many of the invasive plants in Alaska are not yet widespread and can be controlled relatively quickly and more cheaply by taking action now. Alaska needs an updated state noxious weed list, updated state regulations, and a designated state agency with the resources to adequately address this emerging issue. A need exists to build upon the strength of existing programs, to improve areas that are weaker, and integrate efforts into an efficient unified state response to the threat.

Private, local, state, and federal organizations and citizens' groups are working together to raise awareness about invasive plants and keep our communities invasive weeds-free. Representatives of public and private organizations with an interest in controlling and preventing the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plant continue to need a mechanism for cooperation, collaboration, and development of statewide plans of action to meet this threat.

This bill will allow the Commissioner of Natural Resources to employ or appoint a state coordinator for noxious weed, invasive plant, and agricultural pest management and education. This coordinator will work through the Division of Agriculture state departments, agency and institutions. This person will bring together the afore mentioned entities with the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts. Through this coordination the State of Alaska will develop a strategic plan. More importantly, a start toward limiting economic loss and adverse effects to the state's agricultural, natural, and human resources because of the presence and spread of noxious weeds, invasive terrestrial and aquatic plants in the state.

HB

332

HFIN

FILE

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred to Committee: March 10, 2008

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 3/18/08

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 332

HOUSE BILL NO. 332

PRE-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

"An Act relating to elementary and pre-elementary schools."

Recommends it be replaced with HCS or CS for HB 332 (FIN)
 For Senate Bills with new title: Technical Title New Title: HCR _____ Same Title New Title

- attach amendments
- add new referral to _____ Committee
- Letter of Intent _____ Committee

List of Abbrev for Depts.:
 ADM
 CED
 COR
 CRT
 EED
 DEC
 DFG
 GOV
 HSS
 LWF
 LAW
 LEG
 MVA
 DNR
 DPS
 REV
 DOT
 UA

<u>NEW FISCAL NOTES</u> *Assigned by Chief Clerk's Office				
List by Dept(s):	*FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

<u>PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES</u>				
List by Dept(s):	FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
<u>EED</u>	<u>1</u>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Signing with recommendations	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
	Hawker			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	CRAWFORD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	Joule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	Kelly			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Gara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	STOUT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Chair:	Chewath			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 332
(H) Publish Date: 3/10/08

Identifier (file name): HB 332: HB332-DEED-TLS-02-29-08 Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
Title: An Act relating to elementary and pre-elementary schools RDU: Teaching & Learning Support
Early Learning Programs

Sponsor: Representative Edgmon
Requester: House HESS Component Number: 2853

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of _____)
Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
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Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
TOTAL								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This Act adds pre-elementary programs to the definition of elementary schools if the pre-elementary program is supervised by the department under AS 14.07.020(a)(8), operated as a head start program under AS 14.38.010, or located in a public school for federal funding purposes. It does not add pre-elementary students to the foundation formula.

The Department of Education and Early Development does not anticipate any additional costs from the passage of HB 332.

Prepared by: Richard Luther Phone 465-2803
Division: Commissioner's Office Date/Time 2/29/08 2:30 PM
Approved by: Barbara Thompson, Interim Commissioner Date 2/29/2008

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-5257

March 6, 2008

Tribal Councils
Served by BIBNA:

Aleknagik

Chignik Bay

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik Lake

Clarks Point

Curyung

Egegik

Ekuk

Ekwok

Igiugig

Iliamna

Ivanof Bay

Kanatak

King Salmon

Kekhanok

Kohiganek

Levelock

Manokotak

Nakanek

New Stuyahok

Newhalen

Nondalton

Prudhoe Bay

Pennsville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Portage Creek

South Naknek

Toiyuk

Twin Hills

Yachuk

Representative Bryce Edgmon
State Capitol Room 424
Juneau, AK 99801

Bryce
Dear Representative Edgmon:

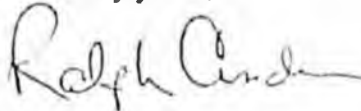
Letter of Support for HB 332

I am writing to express my support for HB 332. This legislation will once again allow Head Start programs in Alaska to be eligible to apply for federal funds that are collected as taxes on Alaskan's phone bills.

Head Start programs have experience flat funding at the state and federal level for many years, while inflationary costs have continued to rise. Making this simple legislative change will help open up another source of federal revenue to help with the increased cost of operating this important early childhood program in our state.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.

Sincerely yours,



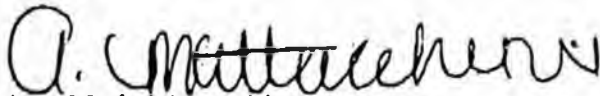
Ralph Andersen
Chief Executive Officer

Letter of Support for HB 332

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Thank you for your support of this legislation.



AnneMarie Mattacchione, Director
907-452-4267 Ext 223

Play N Learn Community Head Start
1949 Gillam Way Suite A
Fairbank AK 99701

Adam Berg

From: Cheryl turner [caturner@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 2:12 PM
To: Adam Berg
Subject: Head Start

Hi Adam,
I'm Cheryl Turner, Mat-Su School Board Member and CCS Board Member (I'm currently on a short leave from my CCS Board position but will be reseated soon).

I'm writing this last minute email to show my support for the Head Start Bill 332 sponsored by Rep. Edgmon. I truly believe in prevention over treatment and our CCS program is an awesome tool to "jump-start" these kids. The "family intervention" component along with the appropriate academic package is the key to a child, who would undoubtedly struggle in school, become successful. I'd rather see my dollars go to supporting Head Start over prisons.

Tell your boss, this is one registered Republican who wishes her party would support Head Start (and not just support it, but understand all the benefits that come from assisting these families). Also tell Rep. Edgmon thank-you so very much for all of his support!!

God Bless,
Cheryl Turner

Adam Berg

From: Cheryl turner [caturner@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 2:12 PM
To: Adam Berg
Subject: Head Start

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Tell your boss, this is one registered Republican who wishes her party would support Head Start (and not just support it, but understand all the benefits that come from assisting these families). Also tell Rep. Edgmon thank-you so very much for all of his support!!

God Bless,
Cheryl Turner

3/6/2008

Adam Berg

From: Strasbaugh, Kathleen J (LAW) [kathleen.strasbaugh@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2008 8:20 PM
To: Adam Berg
Cc: mike.ford@alaska.gov
Subject: RE: HB332

Sorry - prior message sent before I redrafted it. I totally support moving the bill ahead without waiting for USAC input. I plan to e-mail, call (probably next wk instead of wk after) but I am not confident of a definitive answer given the shortness of the session.

: Adam Berg [mailto:Adam_Berg@legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Mon 3/3/2008 11:36 AM
To: Strasbaugh, Kathleen J (LAW)
Subject: RE: HB332

Hello Kathieen -

Are you still going to meet with them in a couple of weeks?

We are going to try and push this out of committee due to the shortened session. We can't afford to wait for an answer from them that may never come. We will be glad to amend language later in the process if needed.

Does that seem reasonable to you?

Thanks,

Adam

From: Strasbaugh, Kathleen J (LAW) [mailto:kathleen.strasbaugh@alaska.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 29, 2008 11:23 AM
To: Adam Berg
Subject: HB332

I just wanted to let you know that I will be out of town in an administrative hearing (long scheduled) on the day of the House State Affairs hearing. I assume that you have Law's letter, to which USAC never responded, and information from AVCP about its situation and what happened to its appeal. Let me know if there is anything you would like us to do. I am leaving tomorrow, but will be checking my e-mail.

kathleen.strasbaugh@alaska.gov

Kathleen Strasbaugh, Assistant Attorney General
Alaska Department of Law
P.O. Box 110300
Juneau, AK 99811-0300
Phone: (907) 465-3600 Fax: (907) 465-2520

3/4/2008

Letter of Support for HB 332

I am writing to express my personal support for HB 332. This legislation will once again allow Head Start programs in Alaska to be eligible to apply for federal funds that are collected as taxes on Alaskan's phone bills. These funds are then redistributed to schools and libraries to help pay for long distance service, internet costs, and other technology expenses (which we all know are especially important in our state).

A couple years ago several Alaska Head Start programs decided that they would apply for these funds as well. As a result, several programs were awarded E-rate funds. Our beginning efforts caused the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to set up some rules determining what Head Start programs would be eligible. Based on these rules the majority of states now have Head Start programs that are eligible for E-rate, unfortunately Alaska is not among them. This legislation would fix that.

Head Start programs have experienced flat funding at the state and federal level for many years, while inflationary costs have continued to rise. Making this simple legislative change will help open up another source of federal revenue to help with the increased cost of operating this important early childhood program in our state.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.

Mark Leckey
Alaska Head Start Association

advised
3/14/08

824

25-LS0797A.1
Mischel
3/14/08

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
TO: HB 332

By: Rep. Meyer
by Request

- 1 Page 1, lines 11 - 12:
- 2 Delete "Pre-elementary"
- 3 Insert "Except for a child with a disability who is receiving special education or
- 4 related services under AS 14.30.180 - 14.30.350, pre-elementary"

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 332
(H) Publish Date: 3/10/08

Identifier (file name): HB 332: HB332-DEED-TLS-02-29-08 Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
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Early Learning Programs

Sponsor: Representative Edgmon
Requester: House HESS Component Number: 2853

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CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
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1003 GF Match							
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Part-time							
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ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This Act adds pre-elementary programs to the definition of elementary schools if the pre-elementary program is supervised by the department under AS 14.07.020(a)(8), operated as a head start program under AS 14.38.010, or located in a public school for federal funding purposes. It does not add pre-elementary students to the foundation formula.

The Department of Education and Early Development does not anticipate any additional costs from the passage of HB 332.

Prepared by: Richard Luther
Division: Commissioner's Office
Approved by: Barbara Thompson, Interim Commissioner

Phone: 465-2803
Date/Time: 2/29/08 2:30 PM
Date: 2/29/2008

Alaska State Legislature
REPRESENTATIVE BRYCE EDGMON
House District 37



SPONSOR STATEMENT / SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

HB332 – Pre-Elementary School Programs

Adak
Aleutian
Aleknagik
Atka
Chignik
Chignik Lagoon
Chignik Lake
Clarks Point
Cold Bay
Dillingham
Egegik
Ekwok
False Pass
Ivanof Bay
King Cove
King Salmon
Koliganek
Mamukotak
Nabesna
Nelson Lagoon
New Starbuck
Nikolski
Perryville
Pilot Point
Portage Creek
Port Heiden
Port George
St. Paul
Summit Point
South Naknek
Togiak
Tongass
Tuljitalik
Tussocka

HB332 proposes adding pre-elementary and Head Start programs to the definition of an elementary school for federal funding purposes.

This change will allow these programs to qualify for Federal E-Rates. These rates were available to Alaskans for several years, then were cut off when the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) made a determination that Alaska's definition of elementary schools did not fit what was required in federal law.

HB332 will allow those pre-elementary programs to be eligible to apply for federal funding to help pay for infrastructure, equipment, or other costs related to providing telephonic and internet transmissions.

This bill also assures that adding these programs to the definition of an elementary school will not have any affect on admission numbers used by the Dept. of Education and Early Development in the Education Funding Formula.

This simple change in statute to allow these programs to garner funding is needed now. Head Start programs have closed in many communities and operations have been scaled back in programs state-wide over the last few years.

I appreciate your support for this bill.

BILL SECTION 1: Amends 14.03.060(a) to assure that adding the pre-elementary programs in Bill Section 2 has no other effect than to make them available for federal funding.

BILL SECTION 2: Adds a new subsection to include pre-elementary and head start programs to the definition of elementary schools. Also assures that those students may not be counted in a school's average daily membership.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LAW
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
LABOR & STATE AFFAIRS

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110300
123 4TH STREET
DIAMOND COURT HOUSE, 6TH FLOOR
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0300
PHONE: (907)465-3600

January 4, 2005

VIA E-MAIL

Kristy Carroll, Associate General Counsel
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Application of E-Rate to Alaska's Pre-Schools

Dear Ms. Carroll:

I am an assistant attorney general for the State of Alaska, and I represent the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED). Some time ago I telephoned you to advise you about the State of Alaska's interpretation of its own law with respect to the question of whether Alaska's preschools were entitled to the E-Rate. You apparently believed that because one of Alaska's education statutes refers to grades K-8 in defining elementary school, that Alaska's preschools are not eligible for the E-Rate under 47 C.F.R. §501(b). I indicated that we did not agree.

For the last seven years, the State of Alaska's pre-schools have participated in the E-Rate program, based on the state's interpretation of its own laws, accepted by USAC. Based on our interpretation of Alaska law, pre-schools within school districts, and separate Head Start programs, are considered elementary schools for the purposes of the E-Rate. We have recently learned that USAC's apparent change of position on this question threatens the progress of a significant project in Southwestern Alaska, and generally threatens the preschool programs offered in Alaska, including those offered by Head Start, and by many local school districts. Our preschools are important to improving the performance of our young children as they begin their education. These preschools serve many children from homes that cannot afford private preschools. USAC's denial of the E-Rate, especially after years agreeing with Alaska that they are eligible for the rate, could be very harmful to these children. Withdrawal of the rate is not in keeping with state law, and not in keeping with federal policy encouraging and requiring the delivery of services to those children most in need of educational support, as expressed in the

No Child Left Behind Act, in Title I, and in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

We believe that the State of Alaska's interpretation of its own law with respect to the applicability of the E-Rate to its preschool classrooms is correct and that USAC should continue to fund in accordance with that interpretation.

As you know, 47 C.F.R. §501(b) adopts by reference the definitions of elementary and secondary schools in 20 U.S.C. §7801, and therefore state law standards for determining whether the e-rate applies to schools in a state. As we understand it, USAC's concern is that AS 14.03.060(a), which provides that elementary schools comprise kindergarten through the eighth grade, precludes the application of the e-rate to preschools in Alaska. We believe that concern is mistaken. As we indicated in our earlier contacts with USAC, a reading of Alaska's education law as a whole compels the conclusion that preschools should be included in the e-rate. USAC apparently agreed with Alaska's interpretation of its law when Alaska schools first applied for the E-Rate, and that interpretation has been the basis of funding since.

First and dispositively, EED is responsible for prescribing safety requirements for preschools and exercises general supervision of pre-elementary schools that receive state and federal funding:

AS 14.07.020. Duties of the department. (a) The department shall

(1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state except the University of Alaska; ...

(7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will assure healthful and safe conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

(8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that receive direct state or federal funding; ...

(c) In this section "pre-elementary school" means a school for children ages three through five years if the school's primary function is educational.

EED exercises this responsibility by requiring certification. We attach Chapter 04.60 of the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC), the regulations under which preschools must operate for your information. Under these regulations, EED

reviews curriculum [4 AAC 60.170], and permits the preschools to provide services to exceptional children under a local school district's plan for services to those children. 4 AAC 60.120.

There are other provisions of Alaska statute that involve EED and its local school district in preschool education. The state also oversees the Head Start funding program governed by 42 U.S.C. 9835 under AS 14.38.010. Alaska's regional education attendance areas (school districts in the unorganized borough) and municipal school districts have broad authority to provide whatever services they deem appropriate. AS 14.08.101, 14.08.111; AS 14.14.090. Under this broad grant of authority, some school districts have funded and conducted preschools. Other schools house Head Starts. Still others provide preschools with funding that includes Title I assistance.

The state issues early childhood education certificates. 4 AAC 12.390. Further, the state and each school district must provide for disabled children in need of services from the age of three. AS 14.30.180, 14.30.186(a), 14.30.274, 14.30.335. Many districts have special education preschools.

And finally, AS 14.50.030 and 14.50.080 require that EED act in accordance with the legislature's intent that the state's laws be construed so that the state is eligible for federal funding for education.

In light of the state's supervisory and other involvement in the provision of pre-school education, the actual provision of such education by several regional and municipal school districts, and the USAC's prior funding of these programs based on the same interpretation of the state's education law as a whole that we present in this letter, we urge you to permit current and future applications for funding to proceed as they have in the past.

Now that we are in an application window, Alaska's applicants need to be assured that they can include these students and facilities in next year's application. We also have a tribal organization that is threatened with the loss of an infrastructure program for the current year because of USAC's uncertainty on this issue.

We believe that it is appropriate for USAC to continue to provide the E-Rate to Alaska's preschools, under state law, and in keeping with Congress' goals and objectives in adopting the universal service program. 47 U.S.C. §254(b)(6). This is particularly so in light of the fact that so many of Alaska's preschools are in communities that are remote rural areas that are also among Congress' priorities.

To: Kristy Carroll, Associate General Counsel, USAC
Re: E-Rate for Alaska Pre-Schools

Page 4 of 4
January 4, 2006

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or our E-Rate co-ordinator, Della Matthis. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVID W. MÁRQUEZ
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:



Kathleen Strasbaugh
Assistant Attorney General

cc via e-mail: Karen Rehfeld, Deputy Commissioner
Della Matthis, E-Rate Co-ordinator
D. Scott Barash, Acting CEO, USAC
Mel Blackwell, Acting Vice-President, SLD, USAC

VALERIE OLIVER

Alaska E-Rate Coordinator
Alaska State Library

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Dear Alaska Legislator,

I work under contract for the AK State Library and EED as the E-Rate Coordinator for the State of Alaska. E-Rate is a program administered by the Federal Communications Commission to subsidize telephone and Internet access bills for K-12 education and public libraries through the Universal Service Fund (USF). I assist eligible Alaska organizations in acquiring E-Rate dollars from this USF fund. Currently the State of Alaska receives approximately eighteen million dollars annually from the USF through the E-Rate program. Alaska could receive even more in E-Rate funds through a modification of our Title 14 State Statues. I believe that HB332 will result in Alaska receiving this additional funding.

Disagreement in interpretation of our statues currently prevents Alaska from receiving funding for our pre-kindergarten students, including those in Head Start programs. The lawyers assigned to the Department of Education and Early Development opined that the definitions needed to include funding for pre-k were contained in Title 14 of the Alaska State Statues and that any agency included in that section of state law could properly be considered a K-12 education agency. The Universal Service Administrative Company, which oversees the distribution of USF E-Rate funds, interprets our State Statutes differently than our own State Attorney's office. HB332 would amend Alaska State Statues to strengthen our position that Alaska pre-K programs, including EED recognized Head Start Programs and eliminate this disagreement.

The passing of HB332 has positive financial implications for creating an increase in E-Rate funding into the State of Alaska. I am aware of no negative impact that will result in this change in State Statute. If passed, this will allow Alaska to join the other 34 states in the nation that currently receive pre-K funding for their pre-K programs, including those EED recognized Head Start programs operating within the state.

Valerie Oliver, E-Rate/USF Coordinator
Alaska State Library & Dept. of Ed. and Early Dev.
344 W. 3rd Avenue Suite 125
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-227-4051(v) 907-349-1361(fx)
orato@alaska.gov

Sec. 14.07.020. Duties of the department.

(a) The department shall

(1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state except the University of Alaska;

(2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state, adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement of the public schools;

(3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school governing bodies and personnel;

(4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public schools; the regulations must provide that if a course in American Sign Language is given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

(5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held in detention facilities in the state during the period of detention;

(6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session, whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of the members of each house;

(7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire marshal and the state sanitarian, standards in addition to the requirements of AS 18.15.145 that will assure healthful and safe conditions in the public and private schools of the state including a requirement of physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

(8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that receive direct state or federal funding;

(9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

(10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be licensed;

(11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans" include educational specifications, schematic designs, and final contract documents;

(12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who are no longer attending school;

(13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14 11;

(14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a school bus driver training course;

(15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent behavior.

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH REPORT

JANUARY 18, 2008



REPORT NUMBER 08.087

HEAD START PARTICIPATION AND DECLINING SERVICES

PREPARED FOR REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA

BY TIM SPENGLER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

You asked for information on the Head Start program. Specifically, you wished to know how many Alaskan children have participated in the program in the last five years and how many communities have lost funding or closed their programs in that time period.

As you know, Head Start is a comprehensive child development program that serves children aged three to five who come from low income homes. The program's goals include increasing the child's social competence, such as the ability to deal with the everyday, present environment, and later responsibilities in life and school. Head Start also works with the families of these children to help educate and strengthen them by offering training and support to help facilitate growth and change.

According to Paul Sugar, Education Specialist II, with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), Head Start anticipates serving 3,504 children in fiscal year (FY) 2008. This is a decrease of 167 children served since FY05. Mr. Sugar provided the figures for Table 1, which tracks the number of children served by Head Start in the last five fiscal years. As you will see, the number has dropped from a high of 3,671 in FY05, to its lowest point in five fiscal years.

Table 1: Children Served by Head Start in Alaska, FY04 - FY08

Children Served	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08 (Projected)
	3,513	3,671	3,656	3,606	3,504
Difference per Year		158	-15	-50	-102

Notes: Data include children from birth to five years of age

Source: Paul Sugar, Education Specialist, Department of Education and Early Development
Mr. Sugar can be reached at (907) 465-4862

This number includes children from birth to five years. Mr. Sugar can be reached at (907) 465-4862

Mr. Sugar points out that in the last five years, while state and federal funding for the Head Start program has remained relatively flat, costs have risen. Not only goods and services—such as heating fuel and transportation—but personnel costs have risen as well. As more teaching staff complete degree programs to meet increased federal requirements, their costs are rising. Insurance costs have also risen over the last five years.

Since fiscal year 2004, 19 communities have closed their Head Start programs.² Table 2 enumerates the closures over the last five fiscal years.

Program Closures	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	Total
	1	6	6	5	1	19

Source: Paul Sugar, Education Specialist, Department of Education and Early Development. Mr. Sugar can be reached at (907) 465-4862.

Aside from closures, budgetary concerns have also caused some grantees to go from a center based model to a home visiting model. Others now use a central building site and transport children from nearby communities, while some urban programs have shortened their transportation area. Still others have had to lower the number of children that they serve.

With the current level of funding, Head Start serves just under half (48 percent) of the children in Alaska who are *three to five* year olds and live below the poverty line. Roughly 72 percent of the nearly 13,000 children between *birth and five* who the DEED estimates live below the poverty line are without Head Start early childhood education opportunities.

I hope you find this information to be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

²One of these communities reopened services with a different grantee, a second will reopen in February 2008.

Chapter 14.38. HEAD START, CHILD CARE, AND DAY CARE

Article 01. HEAD START

Sec. 14.38.010. Operation of Head Start programs.

The Department of Education and Early Development shall operate the head start funding program governed by 42 U.S.C. 9835.

Sec. 14.07.020. Duties of the department.

(a) The department shall

(1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state except the University of Alaska;

(2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state, adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement of the public schools;

(3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school governing bodies and personnel;

(4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public schools; the regulations must provide that if a course in American Sign Language is given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

(5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held in detention facilities in the state during the period of detention;

(6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session, whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of the members of each house;

(7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire marshal and the state sanitarian, standards in addition to the requirements of AS 18.15.145 that will assure healthful and safe conditions in the public and private schools of the state including a requirement of physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

(8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that receive direct state or federal funding;

(9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

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(12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who are no longer attending school;

(13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

(14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a school bus driver training course;

(15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent behavior.

HB

332

SFIN

FILE

Alaska State Legislature
REPRESENTATIVE BRYCE EDGMON
House District 37

MEMORANDUM

Adak
Akutan
Aleknagik
Atka
Chignik
Chignik Lagoon
Chignik Lake
Clark's Point
Cold Bay
Dillingham
Egegik
Ekvok
False Pass
Ivanof Bay
King Cove
King Salmon
Koliganek
Manokotok
Naknek
Nelson Lagoon
New Stuyahok
Nikolski
Perryville
Pilot Point
Portage Creek
Port Heiden
St. George
St. Paul
Sand Point
South Naknek
Togiak
Twin Hills
Ugashik
Unalaska

DATE: April 7, 2008

TO: Senators Bert Stedman and Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chairs
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Rep. Bryce Edgmon BE
House District 37
(Staff Member – Adam Berg - #4451)

SUBJ: Request for Hearing on CSHB332 (FIN) (title am) – Pre-Elementary
School Programs

I respectfully request a hearing on CSHB332(FIN) (title am), a measure that will allow Pre-Elementary School Programs to be eligible for federal E-Rates.

CSHB332(FIN) (title am) amends existing statute to allow these programs to be eligible for these federal subsidies for communications infrastructure. It also assures that children in a Head Start or other Pre-Elementary program are not counted in the student count used by the Department of Education in determining school funding.

I am attaching a copy of the bills, a Sponsor Statement / Sectional Analysis, letters of support and correspondence between the Department of Law and the Universal Service Administrative Company.

Thank you for considering my request.

SPONSOR STATEMENT / SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

CSHB332(FIN)(title am) – Pre-Elementary School Programs

HB332 proposes adding pre-elementary and Head Start programs to the definition of an elementary school for federal funding purposes.

This change will allow these programs to qualify for Federal E-Rates. These rates were available to Alaskans for several years, then were cut off when the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) made a determination that Alaska's definition of elementary schools did not fit what was required in federal law.

HB332 will allow those pre-elementary programs to be eligible to apply for federal funding to help pay for infrastructure, equipment, or other costs related to providing telephonic and internet transmissions.

This bill also assures that adding these programs to the definition of an elementary school will not have any affect on admission numbers used by the Dept. of Education and Early Development in the Education Funding Formula.

This simple change in statute to allow these programs to garner funding is needed now. Head Start programs have closed in many communities and operations have been scaled back in programs state-wide over the last few years.

I appreciate your support for this bill.

The bill was amended in House Finance as follows:

Inserted a clarifying sentence in Section 2 (Page 1, lines 11-14) that assures special education students now counted in schools ADM counts will continue to be counted.

BILL SECTION 1: Amends 14.03.060(a) to assure that adding the pre-elementary programs in Bill Section 2 has no other effect than to make them available for federal funding.

BILL SECTION 2: Adds a new subsection to include pre-elementary and head start programs to the definition of elementary schools. Also assures that those students, other than special education students, may not be counted in a school's average daily membership.

VALERIE OLIVER

Alaska E-Rate Coordinator
Alaska State Library

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Dear Alaska Legislator,

I work under contract for the AK State Library and EED as the E-Rate Coordinator for the State of Alaska. E-Rate is a program administered by the Federal Communications Commission to subsidize telephone and internet access bills for K-12 education and public libraries through the Universal Service Fund (USF). I assist eligible Alaska organizations in acquiring E-Rate dollars from this USF fund. Currently the State of Alaska receives approximately eighteen million dollars annually from the USF through the E-Rate program. Alaska could receive even more in E-Rate funds through a modification of our Title 14 State Statues. I believe that HB332 will result in Alaska receiving this additional funding.

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The passing of HB332 has positive financial implications for creating an increase in E-Rate funding into the State of Alaska. I am aware of no negative impact that will result in this change in State Statute. If passed, this will allow Alaska to join the other 34 states in the nation that currently receive pre-K funding for their pre-K programs, including those EED recognized Head Start programs operating within the state.

Valerie Oliver, E-Rate/USF Coordinator
Alaska State Library & Dept. of Ed. and Early Dev.
344 W. 3rd Avenue Suite 125
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-227-4051(v) 907-349-1361(fx)
erate@alaska.gov

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LAW
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
LABOR & STATE AFFAIRS

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110300
123 4TH STREET
DIAMOND COURTHOUSE, 6TH FLOOR
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0300
PHONE (907) 465-3600

January 4, 2005
VIA E-MAIL

Kristy Carroll, Associate General Counsel
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Application of E-Rate to Alaska's Pre-Schools

Dear Ms. Carroll:

I am an assistant attorney general for the State of Alaska, and I represent the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED). Some time ago I telephoned you to advise you about the State of Alaska's interpretation of its own law with respect to the question of whether Alaska's preschools were entitled to the E-Rate. You apparently believed that because one of Alaska's education statutes refers to grades K-8 in defining elementary school, that Alaska's preschools are not eligible for the E-Rate under 47 C.F.R. §501(b). I indicated that we did not agree.

For the last seven years, the State of Alaska's pre-schools have participated in the E-Rate program, based on the state's interpretation of its own laws, accepted by USAC. Based on our interpretation of Alaska law, pre-schools within school districts, and separate Head Start programs, are considered elementary schools for the purposes of the E-Rate. We have recently learned that USAC's apparent change of position on this question threatens the progress of a significant project in Southwestern Alaska, and generally threatens the preschool programs offered in Alaska, including those offered by Head Start, and by many local school districts. Our preschools are important to improving the performance of our young children as they begin their education. These preschools serve many children from homes that cannot afford private preschools. USAC's denial of the E-Rate, especially after years agreeing with Alaska that they are eligible for the rate, could be very harmful to these children. Withdrawal of the rate is not in keeping with state law, and not in keeping with federal policy encouraging and requiring the delivery of services to those children most in need of educational support, as expressed in the

No Child Left Behind Act, in Title I, and in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

We believe that the State of Alaska's interpretation of its own law with respect to the applicability of the E-Rate to its preschool classrooms is correct and that USAC should continue to fund in accordance with that interpretation.

As you know, 47 C.F.R. §501(b) adopts by reference the definitions of elementary and secondary schools in 20 U.S.C. §7801, and therefore state law standards for determining whether the e-rate applies to schools in a state. As we understand it, USAC's concern is that AS 14.03.060(a), which provides that elementary schools comprise kindergarten through the eighth grade, precludes the application of the e-rate to preschools in Alaska. We believe that concern is mistaken. As we indicated in our earlier contacts with USAC, a reading of Alaska's education law as a whole compels the conclusion that preschools should be included in the e-rate. USAC apparently agreed with Alaska's interpretation of its law when Alaska schools first applied for the E-Rate, and this interpretation has been the basis of funding since.

First and dispositively, EED is responsible for prescribing safety requirements for preschools and exercises general supervision of pre-elementary schools that receive state and federal funding:

AS 14.07.020. Duties of the department. (a) The department shall

(1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state except the University of Alaska; ...

(7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will assure healthful and safe conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

(8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that receive direct state or federal funding; ...

(c) In this section "pre-elementary school" means a school for children ages three through five years if the school's primary function is educational.

EED exercises this responsibility by requiring certification. We attach Chapter 04.60 of the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC), the regulations under which preschools must operate for your information. Under these regulations, EED

reviews curriculum [4 AAC 60.170], and permits the preschools to provide services to exceptional children under a local school district's plan for services to those children. 4 AAC 60.120.

There are other provisions of Alaska statute that involve EED and its local school district in preschool education. The state also oversees the Head Start funding program governed by 42 U.S.C. 9835 under AS 14.38.010. Alaska's regional education attendance areas (school districts in the unorganized borough) and municipal school districts have broad authority to provide whatever services they deem appropriate. AS 14.08.101, 14.080.111; AS 14.14.090. Under this broad grant of authority, some school districts have funded and conducted preschools. Other schools house Head Starts. Still others provide preschools with funding that includes Title I assistance.

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And finally, AS 14.50.030 and 14.50.080 require that EED act in accordance with the legislature's intent that the state's laws be construed so that the state is eligible for federal funding for education.

In light of the state's supervisory and other involvement in the provision of pre-school education, the actual provision of such education by several regional and municipal school districts, and the USAC's prior funding of these programs based on the same interpretation of the state's education law as a whole that we present in this letter, we urge you to permit current and future applications for funding to proceed as they have in the past.

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To: Kristy Carroll, Associate General Counsel, USAC
Re: E Rate for Alaska Pre Schools


Page 4 of 4
January 4, 2006

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or our E-Rate co-ordinator, Della Matthis. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVID W. MÁRQUEZ
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:


Kathleen Strasbaugh
Assistant Attorney General

cc via e-mail: Karen Rehfeld, Deputy Commissioner
Della Matthis, E-Rate Co-ordinator
D. Scott Barash, Acting CEO, USAC
Mel Blackwell, Acting Vice-President, SLD, USAC

Chapter 14.38. HEAD START, CHILD CARE, AND DAY CARE

Article 01. HEAD START

Sec. 14.38.010. Operation of Head Start programs.

The Department of Education and Early Development shall operate the head start funding program governed by 42 U.S.C. 9835.

Sec. 14.07.020. Duties of the department.

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(1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state except the University of Alaska;

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(15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent behavior.

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-5257

March 6, 2008

Tri-Val Contact
Served by BICVA

Alaska

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Representative Bryce Edgmon
State Capitol Room 424
Juneau, AK 99801

BRYCE

Dear Representative Edgmon:

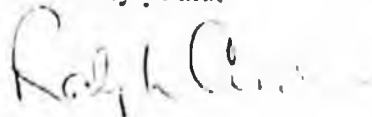
Letter of Support for HB 332

I am writing to express my support for HB 332. This legislation will once again allow Head Start programs in Alaska to be eligible to apply for federal funds that are collected as taxes on Alaskan's phone bills.

Head Start programs have experience flat funding at the state and federal level for many years, while inflationary costs have continued to rise. Making this simple legislative change will help open up another source of federal revenue to help with the increased cost of operating this important early childhood program in our state.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.

Sincerely yours,



Ralph Andersen
Chief Executive Officer

Letter of Support for HB 332

I am writing to express my personal support for HB 332. This legislation will once again allow Head Start programs in Alaska to be eligible to apply for federal funds that are collected as taxes on Alaskan's phone bills. These funds are then redistributed to schools and libraries to help pay for long distance service, internet costs, and other technology expenses (which we all know are especially important in our state).

A couple years ago several Alaska Head Start programs decided that they would apply for these funds as well. As a result, several programs were awarded E-rate funds. Our beginning efforts caused the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to set up some rules determining what Head Start programs would be eligible. Based on these rules the majority of states now have Head Start programs that are eligible for E-rate, unfortunately Alaska is not among them. This legislation would fix that.

Head Start programs have experienced flat funding at the state and federal level for many years, while inflationary costs have continued to rise. Making this simple legislative change will help open up another source of federal revenue to help with the increased cost of operating this important early childhood program in our state.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.

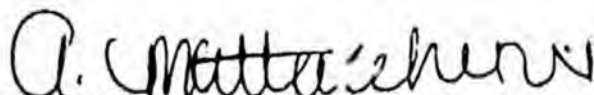
Mark Leckey
Alaska Head Start Association

Letter of Support for HB 332

I am writing to express my support for HB 332. This legislation will once again allow Head Start programs in Alaska to be eligible to apply for federal funds that are collected as taxes on Alaskan's phone bills.

Head Start programs have experience flat funding at the state and federal level for many years, while inflationary costs have continued to rise. Making this simple legislative change will help open up another source of federal revenue to help with the increased cost of operating this important early childhood program in our state.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.



AnneMarie Mattacchione, Director
907-452-4267 Ext 223

Play N Learn Community Head Start
1949 Gillam Way Suite A
Fairbank AK 99701

Adam Berg

From: Cheryl turner [caturner@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 2:12 PM
To: Adam Berg
Subject: Head Start

Hi Adam,

I'm Cheryl Turner, Mat-Su School Board Member and CCS Board Member (I'm currently on a short leave from my CCS Board position but will be reseated soon).

I'm writing this last minute email to show my support for the Head Start Bill 332 sponsored by Rep. Edgmon. I truly believe in prevention over treatment and our CCS program is an awesome tool to "jump-start" these kids. The "family intervention" component along with the appropriate academic package is the key to a child, who would undoubtedly struggle in school, become successful. I'd rather see my dollars go to supporting Head Start over prisons.

Tell your boss, this is one registered Republican who wishes her party would support Head Start (and not just support it, but understand all the benefits that come from assisting these families). Also tell Rep. Edgmon thank-you so very much for all of his support!!

God Bless,
Cheryl Turner

Adam Berg

From: Strasbaugh, Kathleen J (LAW) [kathleen.strasbaugh@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2008 8:20 PM
To: Adam Berg
Cc: mike.ford@alaska.gov
Subject: RE: HB332

Sorry - prior message sent before I redrafted it. I totally support moving the bill ahead without waiting for USAC input. I plan to e-mail, call (probably next wk instead of wk after) but I am not confident of a definitive answer given the shortness of the session.

: Adam Berg [mailto:Adam_Berg@legis.state.ak.us]
Sent: Mon 3/3/2008 11:36 AM
To: Strasbaugh, Kathleen J (LAW)
Subject: RE: HB332

Hello Kathleen -

Are you still going to meet with them in a couple of weeks?

We are going to try and push this out of committee due to the shortened session. We can't afford to wait for an answer from them that may never come. We will be glad to amend language later in the process if needed.

Does that seem reasonable to you?

Thanks,

Adam

From: Strasbaugh, Kathleen J (LAW) [mailto:kathleen.strasbaugh@alaska.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 29, 2008 11:23 AM
To: Adam Berg
Subject: HB332

I just wanted to let you know that I will be out of town in an administrative hearing (long scheduled) on the day of the House State Affairs hearing. I assume that you have Law's letter, to which USAC never responded, and information from AVCP about its situation and what happened to its appeal. Let me know if there is anything you would like us to do. I am leaving tomorrow, but will be checking my e-mail.

kathleen.strasbaugh@alaska.gov

Kathleen Strasbaugh, Assistant Attorney General
Alaska Department of Law
P.O. Box 110300
Juneau, AK 99811-0300
Phone: (907) 465-3600 Fax: (907) 465-2520

Adam Berg

From: Della Matthis [della@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2008 4:02 PM
To: Adam Berg
Subject: HB 332

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

To: House HESS Committee Members
Re: HB332

I am writing to comment upon and support the passage of House Bill 332 as it pertains to the status of the HeadStart programs of the state. Until my recent retirement, I acted for 10 years as the Alaska State E-Rate Coordinator, under contract to the Department of Education and Early Development (EED) and the Alaska State Library to facilitate the applications of Alaskan schools and libraries for funding under federal subsidy program for telecommunications, the Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism, known as E-Rate. During the past 10 years, nationally, E-Rate has provided over 22 billion dollars for this purpose.

In Alaska, this program has provided over \$150,000,000 to our public and private elementary and secondary schools and our public libraries to pay for eligible services. These include all phone services, local, long distance, and cellular, and broadband Internet services including, in some cases, the networking structure to allow delivery of information.

The amount of the subsidy, ranging from 20% to 90%, in all cases is predicated on a percentage of students who fall below a poverty line which is established by the US Dept. of Agriculture for the National School Lunch Program.

Because of an application three years ago by the Bethel area HeadStart program for funding for Internet connections and a network for it's 11 villages, a review and clarification of the Congressional intent in the Telecommunications Bill of 1996 in regards to pre-school eligibility for the program was undertaken by the Universal Service Administrative Company, an agency of the Federal Communications Commission. It was established by the fund administrator that each individual state controlled the eligibility of HeadStart and other early childhood programs by the language in its state statutes. In practical fact, if the definition of elementary education in the statutes included pre-school students and pre-school facilities, the E-Rate program then recognized those schools as eligible for funding. Currently, 21 states have done so.

As a separate factor, whether a private "school", regardless of level is actually defined as a school is a matter for EED. They maintain a list of those facilities they recognize as being schools. HeadStart facilities would need to be included in that list in order to qualify for E-Rate.

Because of the clientele of HeadStart, all eligible facilities would qualify for a 90% discount on telecommunications bills. For those Bush programs, with individual units and teachers spread over enormous distances, the ability to communicate both over the phones and through the Internet at such great savings would be invaluable. The advanced training which is being required for pre-school staff can be and is being delivered through the net, but that is only viable if a broadband connection is available at reasonable cost.

I urge the Committee to redefine elementary education to include pre-school and HeadStart programs specifically to allow such programs to apply for the available federal funding.

#####

Della A Matthis
11124 Kaskanak Dr.
Eagle River, AK 99577
907-694-5162 (cell) 907-301-7853
fax 907-694-5162
della@mtaonline.net

HB

334

HFIN

FILE

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred to Committee: January 22, 2008

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 2/04/08

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 334

HOUSE BILL NO. 334

EXTENDING COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

"An Act extending the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and providing for an effective date."

Recommends it be replaced with HCS or CS for _____ (_____)
 For Senate Bills with new title: Technical Title New Title: HCR _____ Same Title New Title

- attach amendments
- add new referral to _____ Committee
- Letter of Intent _____ Committee

List of Abbrev for Depts:
 ADM
 CED
 COR
 CRT
 EED
 DEC
 DFG
 GOV
 HSS
 LWF
 LAW
 LEG
 MVA
 DNR
 DPS
 REV
 DOT
 UA

<u>NEW FISCAL NOTES</u>				
*Assigned by Chief Clerk's Office				
List by Dept(s):	*FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
DPS		✓		

<u>PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES</u>				
List by Dept(s):	FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

<u>Signing with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Harry Crawford Jr</i>	CRAWFORD	X			
<i>John C. Hawk</i>	Hawker	X			
<i>Mary Nelson</i>	NEILSON	✓			
<i>Bill Kelly</i>	KELLY	✓			
<i>Steve Stortz</i>	STORTZ	✓			
Chair: <i>K. Meyer</i>	Meyer	X			
Chair: <i>Mike Chavault</i>	Chavault	X			

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HB 334
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HB334-DPS-CDVSA-02-01-08 Dept. Affected: Public Safety
Title: "An Act extending the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault;" RDU: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Sponsor: Representative Fairclough Component: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Requester: House Finance Component Number: 521 / 164

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services		624.7	624.7	624.7	624.7	624.7	624.7
Travel		98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7
Contractual		941.2	941.2	941.2	941.2	941.2	941.2
Supplies		12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3
Equipment		16.2	16.2	16.2	16.2	16.2	16.2
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims		9,714.3	9,714.3	9,714.3	9,714.3	9,714.3	9,714.3
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts		3,468.3	3,468.3	3,468.3	3,468.3	3,468.3	3,468.3
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF		1,545.3	1,545.3	1,545.3	1,545.3	1,545.3	1,545.3
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1071 PFD Crm		5,569.0	5,569.0	5,569.0	5,569.0	5,569.0	5,569.0
Other Interagency Receipts		824.8	824.8	824.8	824.8	824.8	824.8
TOTAL	0.0	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time		8	8	8	8	8	8
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill extends the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from June 30, 2011 to June 30, 2014. The council's funding is contained in the Governor's operating budget. No separate fiscal note appropriation is required.

Prepared by: Chris Ashenbrenner, Executive Director
Division: Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Approved by: Walt Monagan, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Phone: 465-5504
Date Time: 2/1/08 2:25PM
Date: 2/1/2008



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Anna Fairclough — House District 17

House Bill 334

Extending Council on Domestic Violence

"An Act extending the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and providing for an effective date."

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) is an essential organization in our state that allows coordinated efforts among state agencies and victim service providers. CDVSA's mission, to "reduce the causes and incidents; and to alleviate the effects of domestic violence and sexual assault," is one that should be important to *all* Alaskans.

Last year, the Legislature reauthorized the Council to the year 2011. Subsequent Legislation created a Legislative Task Force to address a number of questions that arise each time the Council faces reauthorization. That Task Force met this interim in Bethel, Fairbanks and Anchorage. We will convene the final meetings of the Task Force here in Juneau over the next two weeks.

In each location we've visited victim service providers and heard public testimony about the Council from those who work in the areas of domestic violence and sexual assault. In March, the Task Force will issue a report containing findings and recommendations. Among them, that the Council develop a strategic plan about how best to serve the state.

The request for reauthorization comes now because members of the 25th Legislature are educated about the Council. If the Council faces another reauthorization in 2011, it will take a great deal of time for them to educate new members of that Legislature, rather than focusing on the task at hand, which should be implementation of the strategic plan.

This request for the Council's extension to 2014 comes to you now, supported by the Task Force, in the hopes that the Legislature will see fit to allow this vital organization the time to both develop *and* implement this most needed strategic plan.

I know that we stand together as Alaskans with the goal of reducing domestic violence and sexual assault in our state. I urge your support in passing this legislation to allow the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault the opportunity to continue its critical work.

HB

334

SFIN

FILE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/13/08

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: _____

Finance Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 334

HB 334 EXTENDING COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

"An Act extending the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:

- Same Title
- New Title

HOUSE BILL:

- Same Title
- Technical Title Change
- New Title w/ SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
DPS	2/1/08	✓			1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Elton	✓			
	Thomas	✓			
	Inson	✓			
	WILLIAMS	✓			
	OLSON			✓	
CO-CHAIR:		✓			
CO-CHAIR:	SILVERMAN	✓			

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 334
(H) Publish Date: 2/6/08

Identifier (file name): HB334-DPS-CDVSA-02-01-08 Dept. Affected: Public Safety
Title: "An Act extending the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; . . ." RDU: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Sponsor: Representative Fairclough Component: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Requester: House Finance Component Number: 521 / 164

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services		624.7	624.7	624.7	624.7	624.7	624.7
Travel		98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7
Contractual		941.2	941.2	941.2	941.2	941.2	941.2
Supplies		12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3
Equipment		16.2	16.2	16.2	16.2	16.2	16.2
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims		9,714.3	9,714.3	9,714.3	9,714.3	9,714.3	9,714.3
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts		3,468.3	3,468.3	3,468.3	3,468.3	3,468.3	3,468.3
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF		1,545.3	1,545.3	1,545.3	1,545.3	1,545.3	1,545.3
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1071 PFD Crim		5,569.0	5,569.0	5,569.0	5,569.0	5,569.0	5,569.0
Other Interagency Receipts		824.8	824.8	824.8	824.8	824.8	824.8
TOTAL	0.0	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4	11,407.4

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time		8	8	8	8	8	8
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill extends the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from June 30, 2011 to June 30, 2014. The council's funding is contained in the Governor's operating budget. No separate fiscal note appropriation is required.

Prepared by: Chris Ashenbrenner, Executive Director
Division: Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Approved by: Walt Monegan, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Phone 465-5504
Date/Time 2/1/08 2:25PM
Date 2/1/2008



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Anna Fairclough — House District 17

House Bill 334

Extending Council on Domestic Violence

"An Act extending the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and providing for an effective date."

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) is an essential organization in our state that allows coordinated efforts among state agencies and victim service providers. CDVSA's mission, to "reduce the causes and incidents; and to alleviate the effects of domestic violence and sexual assault," is one that should be important to *all* Alaskans.

Last year, the Legislature reauthorized the Council to the year 2011. Subsequent Legislation created a Legislative Task Force to address a number of questions that arise each time the Council faces reauthorization. That Task Force met this interim in Bethel, Fairbanks and Anchorage. We will convene the final meetings of the Task Force here in Juneau over the next two weeks.

In each location we've visited victim service providers and heard public testimony about the Council from those who work in the areas of domestic violence and sexual assault. In March, the Task Force will issue a report containing findings and recommendations. Among them, that the Council develop a strategic plan about how best to serve the state.

The request for reauthorization comes now because members of the 25th Legislature are educated about the Council. If the Council faces another reauthorization in 2011, it will take a great deal of time for them to educate new members of that Legislature, rather than focusing on the task at hand, which should be implementation of the strategic plan.

This request for the Council's extension to 2014 comes to you now, supported by the Task Force, in the hopes that the Legislature will see fit to allow this vital organization the time to both develop *and* implement this most needed strategic plan.

I know that we stand together as Alaskans with the goal of reducing domestic violence and sexual assault in our state. I urge your support in passing this legislation to allow the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault the opportunity to continue its critical work.

HB

336

HFIN

FILE

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred to Committee: February 11, 2008

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 3/25/08

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 336

HOUSE BILL NO. 336

SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

"An Act directing the Alaska Energy Authority to conduct a study of and to prepare a proposal for an appropriately sized Susitna River hydroelectric power project; and providing for an effective date."

Recommends it be replaced with [] HCS or [x] CS for HB 336 (RCS) For Senate Bills with new title: [] Technical Title [] New Title: HCR [x] Same Title [] New Title

- [] attach amendments
[] add new referral to Committee
[] Letter of Intent Committee

List of Abbrev for Depts.: ADM, CED, COR, CRT, EED, DEC, DFG, GOV, HSS, LWF, LAW, LFG, MVA, DNR, DPS, REV, DOT, UA

Table with columns: NEW FISCAL NOTES, List by Dept(s), *FN#, Fiscal, Indet., Zero. Contains handwritten entry for HFC with a checkmark in the Fiscal column.

Table with columns: PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES, List by Dept(s), FN#, Fiscal, Indet., Zero. Empty table.

Table with columns: Signing with recommendations, Printed Last Name, DP, DNP, NR, AM. Includes handwritten signatures and initials, such as Mike Kelly, Thomas Seale, and Bill Stoffer.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: CS HB 336 (RES)
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): _____ Dept. Affected: DCCED
Title AEA study and proposal of Susitna River hydroelectric power project RDU Alaska Energy Authority (453)
Component Statewide Project Development
Sponsor Rep. Johnson
Requester House Finance Committee Component Number 2888

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING								

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	1,000.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
1012 Rail Enrgy	1,000.0						
TOTAL	1,000.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY 2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation requires the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) to conduct a study and prepare a proposal for a hydroelectric power project on the Susitna River appropriately sized for the Railbelt Area.

The project would be significant in scope and would likely extend beyond one year; therefore, a capital appropriation is suggested. It is likely additional funds would be required, but these amounts are indeterminate at this time. It is assumed that AEA would develop a best fit scenario, and develop a preliminary design to provide enough detail that a valid project concept estimate and schedule could be developed and reported to the Legislature no later than June 30, 2010.

The fund source indicated in this fiscal note for the capital expenditure is the Rail Belt Energy Fund.

Prepared by: House Finance Committee Phone 465-6875
Division _____ Date/Time 3/25/08 11:38 a.m.
Approved by: Rep. Kevin Meyer, Co-Chairman Date 3/25/2008
Rep. Mike Chonault, Co-Chairman

FISCAL NOTE

Replaced

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: CS HB 336 (RES)
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): _____ Dept. Affected: DCCED
 Title AEA study and proposal of Susitna River hydroelectric power project RDU Alaska Energy Authority (453)
 Component Statewide Project Development
 Sponsor: Rep. Johnson
 Requester House Finance Committee Component Number 2888

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING							

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES 1,000.0

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
1012 Rail Enrgy	1,000.0						
TOTAL	1,000.0						

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation requires the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) to conduct a study and prepare a proposal for a hydroelectric power project on the Susitna River appropriately sized for the Raiibelt Area.

The project would be significant in scope and would likely extend beyond one year; therefore, a capital appropriation is suggested. It is likely additional funds would be required, but these amounts are indeterminate at this time. It is assumed that AEA would develop a best fit scenario, and develop a preliminary design to provide enough detail that a valid project concept estimate and schedule could be developed and reported to the Legislature no later than June 30, 2010.

The fund source indicated in this fiscal note for the capital expenditure is the Rail Belt Energy Fund.

Prepared by: House Finance Committee Phone 465-6875
 Division: _____ Date/Time 3/25/08 11:38 a.m
 Approved by: Rep. Kevin Meyer, Co-Chairman Date 3/25/2008
Rep. Mike Chonault, Co-Chairman